

AMENDMENTS

1 - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A system for manufacturing crumbs from a raw material mixture, comprising:

an extruder for extruding the mixture to form loaves having a first size;

said extruder comprising a cutter ~~adjacent~~ attached thereto;

a first dryer for surface drying said loaves;

a comminuting device separate from said extruder for comminuting said loaves to form crumbs having a smaller size than said loaves after drying;

said comminuting device comprising a further cutter; and

a second dryer for further drying said crumbs downstream of the comminuting device.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein at least said first dryer comprises a fluid bed dryer.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said comminuting device comprises a first cutter for coarse cutting and a second cutter for fine cutting.

18. (Previously presented) A system for manufacturing crumbs from a raw material mixture, comprising:

an extruder for extruding the mixture to form loaves having a first size;

said extruder comprising a cutter;

a first dryer for surface drying said loaves;

a comminuting device separate from said extruder for comminuting said loaves to form crumbs having a smaller size than said loaves after drying;

said comminuting device comprising a further cutter; and

a second dryer for further drying said crumb;

wherein said comminuting device comprises said further cutter for a first size reduction and wherein said system further comprises a grinder downstream of said second dryer for a second size reduction.

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a tempering chamber positioned between said extruder and said comminuting device.

20. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a sizing device for sizing said crumbs.

21. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a plurality of vertically extending transport lines connecting said extruder, said first dryer, said comminuting device, and said second dryer.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said plurality of vertically extending transport lines comprises a plurality of pneumatic conveying lines.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said plurality of vertically extending transport lines comprises gravity for conveying.

24. (Original) The system of claim 15, comprising in series said first dryer, a first cutter for coarse cutting, a second cutter for fine cutting, said second dryer, and a grinder.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising a first bypass line connected between said first cutter and said second dryer for bypassing said second cutter and a second bypass line bypassing said grinder.

26. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said extruder is heated.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A system for manufacturing a plurality of product crumbs, comprising:

- an extruder for forming a plurality of product loaves;
- said extruder comprising a cutter ~~adjacent~~ attached thereto;
- means for drying said plurality of product loaves;
- means for tempering said plurality of product loaves;
- means for cutting separate from said extruder said plurality of product loaves into said plurality of product crumbs after drying; and
- means for drying said plurality of product crumbs separate from said means for drying said plurality of product loaves and positioned after said means for cutting.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for grinding said plurality of product crumbs.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for sizing said plurality of product crumbs.

31. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of pneumatic transport means.

32. (Currently amended) A system for manufacturing a plurality of product crumbs, comprising:

- an intake station;
- an extrusion station;
- said extrusion station comprising a cutter ~~adjacent~~ attached thereto;
- a first drying station;
- a tempering station
- a cutting station separate from said extruder and downstream of said first drying station;

and

- a further drying station downstream of the cutting station.

33. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the cutter comprises a speed of about 500 to 2,000 revolutions per minute.

34. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the further cutter comprises a speed of about 3,000 to 5,600 revolutions per minute.